

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020

7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

*Surely it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.
Isaiah 12:2*

Quorum. The April Vestry Meeting was called to order virtually on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The following Vestry members were present, representing a quorum for the conduct of business: Nancy Bowen, Sean Goldrick, Lis Green, Beverly Griffith, Anita Richardson, Doug Riley, Jan Schroeder, Peter Shafer, Anna von Lunz, David Wallack, and Ted Winstead. The following clergy members, staff members, and officers were present: David Ware, Ellen Chatard, Keri Frisch, Steven Sutor, Tony Brandon, and Fern Riley. The following Vestry member was absent: Millicent Bain.

Opening Prayer. David Ware opened the meeting with a prayer.

Reflection. Jan Schroeder offered a spiritual reflection.

Approval of Minutes. Fern Riley presented the minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on March 17, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Rector's Report [David Ware]. David said Freda Marie Brown, Cristina Paglinauan, Caroline Stewart, and he are continuing to hold virtual daily prayer services, and they are seeing how meaningful these offerings are to the parish. Many people are participating and giving positive comments and helpful feedback. The addition of music and a reflection have been favorably received and are now part of the daily format. The Palm Sunday service reached 2,088 people; several hundred people participated in the Easter Service, and many more watched it at a later time. Weekly Morning Prayer services are being offered live on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 a.m., Noonday Prayer on Tuesday and Thursday at 12:00 noon, Evening Prayer on Saturday at 5:00 p.m., and Morning Prayer with Sermon on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The services are available from the church website link and on Facebook.

David has heard from the parish contact volunteers and reports most parishioners are doing well, coping with worry about the COVID-19 pandemic and also finding some silver linings during this time of social distancing. Cristina is in contact with our community partners regularly to see how they are and how we are able to help.

Prior to the April Vestry meeting, David had suggested and the Vestry endorsed using \$50,000 from the Covenant Fund to meet selected requests from community groups to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. David reported grants have been given to the following organizations:

House of Ruth - domestic violence services
Helping Up Mission - recovery ministry, feeding program, homelessness
Paul's Place - job readiness, counseling, recovery ministry, feeding program
Y of Central Maryland - early childhood care for essential employees
Healthcare for the Homeless
GEDCO/Cares
Franciscan Center
Memorial Episcopal Church - iPads for Lifebridge Hospital pastoral care staff
Govans Elementary School - meals from the Italian Cultural Center of MD

About \$40,000 in grants has been given so far. A motion by the Vestry to support giving up to \$100,000 to appropriate community partners as needed was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

David said he is eager to find the right person to join the clergy as the Associate for Youth and Young Adults, but the search has been slowed by the current pandemic.

Treasurer's Report [Tony Brandon]. Tony Brandon reported the church has had some financial losses but remains in good financial shape. While the budgetary pledge projection for 2020 was not met and our plate and Easter offerings will be decreased during this period of suspended church attendance, we are making savings in energy costs and on items typically used in weekly worship and meetings. Ellen said pledge contributions are coming in regularly at close to normal levels. By the end of the year, Tony said we may need to use funds from the Endowment to meet our expenses, but the church will remain in a solid financial position.

Junior Warden's Report [Steve Sutor]. Steve Sutor noted the North Parking Lot construction will begin on April 22 with utility marking followed by tree, curb, and blacktop removal. The renovation, designed with new bioretention areas to improve storm water run-off management and with improved lighting, is scheduled to continue through the summer and be completed by August 12. Over \$400,000 in grant funding from several foundations will cover most of the work; additional funding will come from the Heritage Trust Fund and the remainder from the Endowment Fund.

Other projects underway at the church include renovation of the bathroom above the choir room and replacing the first floor carpeting throughout the building. The Building and Grounds Committee in conjunction with the Caring for Creation Committee will be discussing the installation of electric car charging stations in the parking lot near the church.

Other Business. David and the Vestry discussed the decision not to pursue federal funding from the CARES Act. The Vestry also discussed returning to the Sacred Ground anti-racism training course and the impact systemic racism is having on the current pandemic.

Adjournment. Doug Riley gave a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Fern Riley, Registrar